

REMARK**Regarding the Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a):**

The ground rejection of claims 39 to 43 and 45 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim (U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672) in view of Baginski (U. S. Patent No. 5,941,483), and further in view of Jobin et al. (U. S. Patent No. 5,794,897), and claims 44, 46 and 47 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Baginski, further in view of Jobin et al. as applied to claim 39, and further in view of Harris (U. S. Patent No. 3,701,555) are traversed respectively.

First, it must note that the major component of the present invention is comprised of: (a) a base sleeve (2, 2b) forming an outer U shaped container and an inner W shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities with a top opening (23), wherein W shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities are closely arranged to directly contact the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) for tightly binding each other, (b) a cover sleeve (3, 3b) forming an M shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower surface, wherein the M shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower surface are closely arranged to directly contact the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) for tightly binding each other, and (c) a wedge (4, 4b) having gradually decreasing thickness along with the axial direction, and a pair of locking sections (45) along with both edges (46) for firmly coupling the first and second reinforcing bar (1, 1a)

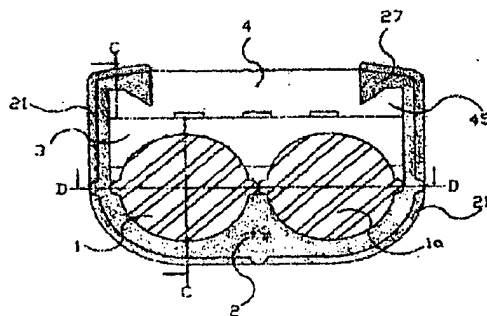


Fig. 1

The major components of the cited reference, Kim (U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672) are that (a) a **cylindrical sleeve (2)** having a cross sectional area sufficient to accommodate two reinforcing bars (1) inserted through both end openings, (b) an **intermediate pad (3)** forming a semi-circular uneven inner-surface on one-side for mating with said reinforcing bars (1), and a narrow flat surface on opposite-side, and (c) a **wedge element (4)** for inserting to the gap through end openings, at least one side of the wedge element (4) tapered to frictional contact with the intermediate pad (3) and the cylindrical sleeve (2).

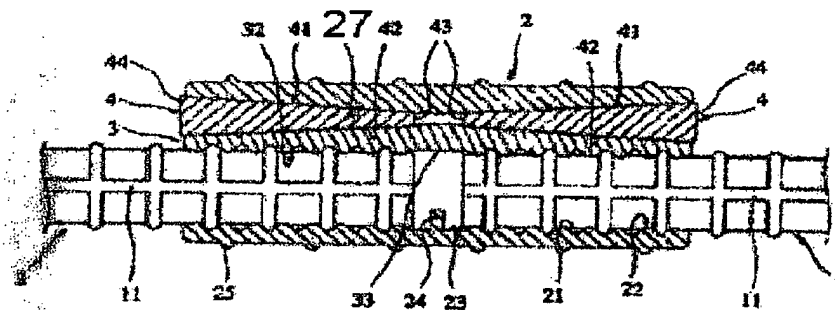




Fig. 2

As comparing the cited reference to the instant invention, the difference is that: Kim (U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672) has a cylindrical sleeve (2) having an ellipse cross-sectional area for inserting the bars, intermediate pad (3) and the wedge element (4).

On the contrary, the present invention forms a base sleeve (2, 2b) forming an outer U shaped container and an inner  shaped, a cover sleeve (3, 3b) forming a  shaped dual arch cut-outs on a lower surface and a wedge (4, 4b).

In the office action (O/A: Page 2, line 5~), the examiner indicated that Kim teaches "a pair of locking sections along with both edges for firmly coupling the first and second reinforcing bar as axially slide advancing into said sleeve" (Kim: Col. 8 lines 59~62). This is not a true statement. Kim did not teach the wedge having the "locking sections (45) along with both edges of the wedge of the instant invention." (Compare Fig. 1 with Fig. 2, above.)

It is deemed the examiner misunderstanding that Kim's wedge has the same shape of

the instant invention. But, Kim's wedge does not have the locking sections (45), because it is inserted inside the cylindrical sleeve," as shown in Fig. 2 above.

In the office action (O/A: Page 3, lines 2~9), the examiner indicated that "Baginski teaches a base sleeve forming an outer U shaped container with a flat bottom surface (14), two flat lateral surface, " which is also considered a false statement.

Baginski did not teach "a plurality of semi-annular grooves (26) from end-to-end with same patterns of the semi-annular ribs (12) for fitting the semi-annular ribs (12) and semi-cylindrical ridges (24) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a)" in the inner surface of the dual half-cylindrical cavities.

Baginski teaches an external surface (46) having a bolt and nut accommodating cavity (48) and the lateral surfaces having a saddle (40) and a through slot (54). The inner surface has formed three engaging surfaces (36) and a couple of pockets between thereof. However, the right and left engaging surfaces (36) are forming the W shape, but those cavities are purposely located apart to have the bolt and nut accommodating cavity (48) for holding the cables separately. These cavities of W shape are suitable for retaining the cables, but they are not good for tightly bonding the iron reinforcing bars.

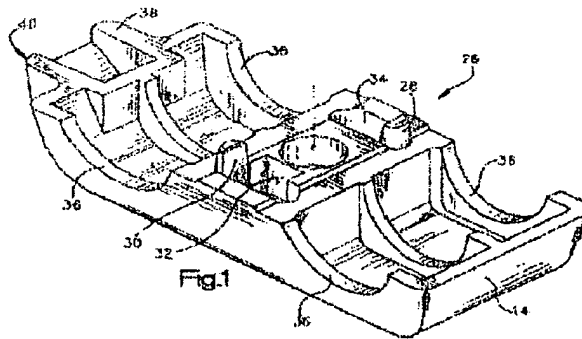


Fig. 3

The outer U shape and inner W shape of Baginski are not the same as the outer U shaped container and inner W shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities of the instant invention.

However, the present claims are amended that the "W shaped dual half-cylindrical

cavities are closely arranged to directly contact the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) for tightly binding each other" to clearly distinguish from the cited reference.

In the office action (O/A: Page 4, lines 3~8), the examiner indicated that Jobin teaches a pair of locking part (15, 25) along both edges of lateral walls in Fig. 3 and 5. However, Jobin describes that the flat ends (15) and the lug ends (17) are brought toward each other, then the flat ends (15) resiliently snap over the projections 22, 23 on the lug ends (17). This is not a slide-fitting each other. This has also different shape and different function from that of the instant invention. The present invention has adopted a pair of dove-tail shaped locking sections (45) along with both edges (46).

In the office action (O/A: Page 4, lines 9~15), with respect to claim 40, the examiner indicated that, Kim teaches the "locking parts (27) of the base sleeve (2, 2b) are integrally formed a right-triangle shaped edge with inwardly slanted surfaces (29)" (Kim: Col. 4, lines 21~24). This is also a false statement, either. Kim did not teach the "locking section (27) along with both edges of the base sleeve" at all. It is impossible to have the "locking section (27)" on the cylindrical sleeve of Kim (U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672). As shown in Figure 1 above, the locking section (27) is located along with both edges of the base sleeve (2) of the instant invention."

In the office action (O/A: Page 4, lines 16~21), with respect to claim 41, the examiner indicated that Kim teaches that ... (omitted front sentence) ... and "outer surface of said outer surface of said base sleeve (2, 2b) formed multiple of semi-annular ribs (22) and longitudinal ribs (21) same shape as the semi-annular ribs (12) and longitudinal ribs (11) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a)" (Col. 3, lines 40~49). This is also false statement. At Column 3, lines 40~49, Kim describes the inner slant face (27) of the cylindrical sleeve, not the outer surface of the base sleeve (2, 2b) of the present invention.

In the office action (O/A: Page 5, lines 16~22) with respect to claim 45, the examiner indicated that Kim teaches that ... (omitted front sentence) ... "a pair of locking section along

with both edges for firmly coupling the first and second reinforcing bar as axially slide advancing into said sleeve" (Kim: Col. 8 lines 59-62). This is not a true statement, either. Kim did not teach the "locking section (27) along with both edges of the base sleeve" at all. Because Kim (U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672) has the cylindrical sleeve, it is impossible to have a locking section (27) along with both edges of the base sleeve. As shown in Figure 1 above, the locking section (27) is located along with both edges of the base sleeve (2) of the instant invention."

Harris (U. S. Patent No. 3,701,555) teaches a clamp for securing the reinforcing bars comprising a tubular split sleeve (21) and a contractor (22). The contractor (22) is slide along the longitudinal direction of the split sleeve (21) for firmly gripping the reinforcing bars. Harris also fails to teach the base sleeve (2, 2b) forming an outer U shaped container and an inner W shaped dual half-cylindrical cavities with a top opening (23) and a cover sleeve (3, 3b) forming an M shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower surface and a flat top surface and a cover sleeve as an intermediate member for tightly locking the reinforcing bars of the instant invention.

As discussed so far, the overall features of the present invention are quite different from that of the cited references. Therefore, none of the cited references, Kim, Baginski, Jobin et al. Harris and alone nor in combination teach or obtain the features of the present invention.

Furthermore, there are no sensible motivation to combine Kim in view of Baginski, further in view of Jobin or Harris because the cited references have different configurations and functions. Even though those are combined one another, the combination can not be reached or obtained the present invention.

However, it must be noted that the inventor, Kim of the U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672 is the same sole inventor of the instant invention. Further, the inventor, Kim states that the instant invention does not have the same limitations with the U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672.

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Thus, the rejections under the reference, Kim (U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672) are considered incorrect. Furthermore, the examiner can not use Kim's patent (U. S. Patent No. 6,860,672) as a primary reference, because it does not contain the major component.

Consequently, the rejections that are made on the basis of wrong references must be immediately withdrawn.

Therefore, the applicant believes the present application is now in allowance condition and early Notice of Allowance is respectively solicited.

Respectfully submitted



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